



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Lower Colorado Regional Office  
P.O. Box 61470  
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

IN REPLY REFER TO:

LC-8000  
ENV-3.00

**MAY 20 2015**

CERTIFIED - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Linda Otero  
Director  
Ahamakav Cultural Society  
Fort Mohave Indian Tribe  
P. O. Box 5990  
Mohave Valley, AZ 86440

Subject: Mohave Valley Backwater Conservation Area Project

Dear Ms. Otero:

In May 2014, the Bureau of Reclamation consulted with your office about the Mohave Valley Backwater Conservation Area (MVCA). The earlier consultation was for the excavation pits to see if the location could be used to re-establish vegetation native to the Colorado River. Based on the results of this work, Reclamation proposes to construct a backwater within the conservation area.

The project is being undertaken to help fulfill commitments of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP); this program balances the use of the Colorado River water resources with the conservation of native species and their habitats. The MVCA project will provide habitat for the flannelmouth sucker (*Catostomus latipinnis*), the razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) and the bonytail chub (*Gila elegans*). The habitat will also benefit numerous migratory bird species.

The 50 acres of connected backwater habitat is on the lower Colorado River near Needles, California, within Moabi Regional Park, northwest of Topock, Arizona (see Enclosure 1). The proposed conservation area is approximately 13 miles south of Needles, California, between river miles 237 and 236, San Bernardino County, Section 6, Township 7 N, and Range 24 E.

The MVCA lands are composed of sediment spoils from dredging efforts conducted by Reclamation. Dredging of the Colorado River upstream of Topock Gorge has been done by Reclamation to prevent flooding. Reclamation mechanically dredged the river sediments and deposited the dredge spoil materials at the river's margins.

No previously recorded archaeological sites have been identified in the project area. A recent pedestrian surface survey conducted in 2011 for the expansion of the facilities at Park Moabi Regional Park did not identify sites in the project area.

As shown in Enclosure 2, creation of the MVCA backwater involves mechanical excavation, planting of MSCP native land cover types, creation of a gravel boat ramp, and construction of two water control structures. All excavated materials will remain on site, along the northeastern portion of the project area. Reclamation biologists will monitor the site, and signs will be used to educate the public and define public access.

Should you have questions regarding the project, please contact me at 702-293-8555 or at [jswett@usbr.gov](mailto:jswett@usbr.gov) and/or Mr. Mark C. Slaughter at 702-293-8143 or at [mslaughter@usbr.gov](mailto:mslaughter@usbr.gov).

Sincerely,



John Swett  
Program Manager  
Lower Colorado River  
Multi-Species Conservation Program

Enclosures

Identical Letters Sent To:

Mr. Edward D. "Tito" Smith  
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Mr. John Bathke  
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Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe  
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Enclosure 1. Mojave Valley Backwater Conservation Area Project Location.





